

1. (Amended Twice) An audio conference server (ACS) for enabling an application program to provide multi-point, weight controllable audio conferencing, the ACS comprising:
SAC
means for managing at least one audio conference, said at least one audio conference including a plurality of audio clients;
ET
means for receiving audio data from said plurality of audio clients;
means for mixing said audio data to provide spatialized audio to said plurality of audio clients in said at least one audio conference,
wherein said mixing means includes means for providing distance-based attenuation according to sound decay characteristics, at least one sound decay characteristic being assigned to each audio client from a plurality of sound decay characteristics, and
wherein said mixing means results in mixed audio data; and
means for delivering said mixed audio data to said plurality of audio clients in said at least one audio conference.

8/ 9. (Amended Twice) A method for enabling an audio conference server ACS to provide an application program with multi-point, weight controllable audio conferencing, comprising:
EN
(1) managing at least one audio conference, said at least one audio conference comprising a plurality of audio clients;
EN
(2) receiving audio data from said plurality of audio clients;
(3) mixing said audio data to provide spatialized audio to said plurality of audio clients in said at least one audio conference,
wherein said mixing includes providing distance-based attenuation according to sound decay characteristics, at least one sound decay characteristic being assigned to each audio

client from a plurality of sound decay characteristics, and

wherein said mixing results in mixed audio data; and

(4) delivering said mixed audio data to said plurality of audio clients in said at least one audio conference.

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end

16
18. (Amended Twice) A computer program product comprising a computer useable medium having computer program logic recorded thereon for enabling an audio conference server (ACS) to provide an application program with multi-point, weight controllable audio conferencing, said computer program logic comprising:

means for enabling the computer to manage at least one audio conference, said at least one audio conference comprising a plurality of audio clients;

F3
means for enabling the computer to receive audio data from said plurality of audio clients;

F5
means for enabling the computer to mix said audio data to provide spatialized audio to said plurality of audio clients in said at least one audio conference;

wherein said mixing means includes means for enabling the computer to provide distance-based attenuation according to sound decay characteristics, at least one sound decay characteristic being assigned to each audio client from a plurality of sound decay characteristics, and

wherein said mixing means results in mixed audio data; and

means for enabling the computer to deliver said mixed audio data to said plurality of audio clients in said at least one audio conference.

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45. (Amended) An audio conference server providing multi-point, weight controllable

audio conferencing comprising:

a management device managing at least one audio conference, said at least one audio conference including a plurality of audio clients;

a receiver receiving audio data from said plurality of audio clients;

a mixer mixing said audio data from said plurality of audio clients;

wherein said mixer includes a distance-based attenuation device providing distance-based attenuation according to sound decay characteristics, at least one sound decay characteristic being assigned to each audio client from a plurality of sound decay characteristics, and

wherein said mixer provides mixed audio data; and

an audio data delivery device delivering said mixed audio data to said plurality of audio clients in said at least one audio conference.

46. (Amended) An audio conference server providing multi-point, weight controllable audio conferencing comprising:

a management device managing at least one audio conference, said at least one audio conference including a plurality of audio clients;

a receiver receiving audio data from said plurality of audio clients;

a mixer mixing said audio data from said plurality of audio clients;

wherein said mixer includes a distance-based attenuation device providing distance-based attenuation according to sound decay characteristics, and

wherein said mixer provides mixed audio data,

wherein said distance-based attenuation device includes:

an identification device identifying a decay factor from one of a plurality of pre-defined

decay factors and a customized decay factor for each of said plurality of audio clients, said plurality of pre-defined decay factors including:

an audio big decay factor,

an audio small decay factor,

an audio medium decay factor, and

a constant decay factor,

a distance determining device determining a distance between a target audio client and a plurality of source audio clients,

a weighted value determining device determining a plurality of weighted values for each of said source audio clients based on said identified decay factor and said distance between each of said source audio clients and said target audio client, wherein each of said weighted values corresponds to a source/target audio client pair,

E4
a mix table generator generating a mix table for each of said source/target audio client pairs,

a calculator calculating an actual mix for said target audio clients, and

a refining device refining the actual mix for said target audio clients; and

an audio data delivery device delivering said mix audio data to said plurality of audio clients in said at least one audio conference.

47. (Amended) A computer executable code for an audio conference server providing multi-point, weight controllable audio conferencing, said code comprising:

a managing section enabling management of at least one audio conference, with said at least one audio conference including a plurality of audio clients;

a receiving section enabling reception of audio data from said plurality of audio